AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of extraction of phytosterols, squalene and vitamin E from [[crude]] the palm oil comprising the steps of:

a) conversion of [[crude]] the palm oil into palm oil methyl esters;

b) three stages of short path distillation of [[crude]] the palm oil methyl esters obtained in [[step (a)]] step a) to yield a phytonutrient ~~phytonutrients~~ concentrate;

c) saponification of the phytonutrient ~~phytonutrients~~ concentrate from ~~step (b);~~ step b) to give a saponified product;

d) crystallization of phytosterols;

e) solvent partitioning of vitamin E and squalene;

wherein each of the three stages of short path distillation produces a distillate and a residue and wherein the third stage short path distillation is carried out on the distillate produced in the second stage short path distillation.

2-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the unsaponifiable matter is mixed with a hydrocarbon solvent, short chain alcohol and water to form a mixture, wherein the hydrocarbon solvent, short chain alcohol and water are in a ratio by volume of [[ratio]] 25:1:1 and wherein the mixture is heated to a temperature of 65°C to 85°C and slowly cooled to a temperature of 10°C to 30°C to crystallize phytosterol ~~phytosterols~~.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the ~~ratio of~~ hydrocarbon solvent ~~to~~ and short chain alcohol used to partition the squalene and the vitamin E ~~is~~ are in a ratio by volume of 5:3.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) Vitamin E, squalene or phytosterols as extracted as in claim 1.

12. (Currently amended) The method of extraction of phytosterols, squalene and vitamin E from [[crude]] palm oil as recited in claim 1, comprising the steps of:

i. conversion of [[crude]] palm oil into palm oil methyl esters;

ii. the first stage short path distillation is carried out on the [[crude]] palm oil methyl esters obtained in the step i, ~~(i) above at~~ wherein the first stage short path distillation is carried out at a temperature of 70°C to 120°C and pressure between 10 mTorr to 50 mTorr;

iii. the second stage short path distillation is carried out on the residue ~~obtained in step (ii) above at~~ obtained in the first stage short path distillation, wherein the second stage short path distillation is carried out at a temperature of 130°C to 200°C and pressure less than 1 mTorr;

iv. the third stage short path distillation is carried out on the distillate obtained in the second stage short path distillation, wherein the third stage short path distillation is carried out ~~step (iii) above~~ at a temperature below 120°C and pressure less than 1 mTorr;

v. saponification of the residue obtained ~~in step (iv) above~~ the third stage short path distillation to give a saponified product;

vi. solvent extraction of unsaponifiable matter from the saponified product obtained in ~~step (v) above~~ step v;

vii. mixing the unsaponifiable matter ~~in step (vi) above~~ obtained in step vi with a hydrocarbon solvent, short chain alcohol and water to give a mixture;

viii. crystallization of ~~phytosterols~~ phytosterol from the mixture obtained in ~~step (vii) above~~ step vii to give crystallized phytosterol and a remaining mixture;

ix. separating the crystallized ~~phytosterols~~ phytosterol and drying the remaining mixture to give a dried mixture ~~left is dried~~;

x. mixing the dried mixture obtained in ~~step (ix) above~~ step ix with a hydrocarbon solvent and a short chain alcohol to partition the squalene into a hydrocarbon layer and the vitamin E into an alcohol layer.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a hydrocarbon solvent and a short chain alcohol are used in ~~step (e)~~ step e) to partition the squalene into a hydrocarbon layer and the vitamin E into an alcohol layer.

15. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein hexane and methanol are used in step e) to partition the squalene into a hexane layer and the vitamin E into a methanol layer.

16. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (b) proceeds as follows:

a. the first stage short path distillation is carried out on [[crude]] palm oil methyl esters;

b. the second stage short path distillation is carried out on the residue of the first stage short path distillation;

c. the third stage short path distillation is carried out on the distillate of the second stage short path distillation to yield a phytonutrients concentrate as a residue.

17. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the second stage short path distillation is carried out at a temperature of 130°C to 200°C and pressure less than 1 mTorr.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the first stage short path distillation is carried out at a temperature of 70°C to 120°C and pressure between 10 mTorr to 50 mTorr and the third stage short path distillation is carried out at a temperature below 120°C and pressure less than 1 mTorr.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein unsaponifiable matter is solvent extracted from the saponified product obtained ~~in step (e)~~ in step c) and phytosterols are crystallized from the unsaponifiable matter.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the unsaponifiable matter is mixed with a hydrocarbon solvent, short chain alcohol and water to give a mixture and crystallizing phytosterols from the mixture to give crystallized phytosterols and a remaining mixture ~~are crystallized from the mixture~~.

21. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the remaining mixture ~~left after separation of the crystallized phytosterols~~ is dried and then mixed with a hydrocarbon solvent and a short chain alcohol to partition the squalene into a hydrocarbon layer and the vitamin E into an alcohol layer.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein hexane and methanol is used to partition the squalene and the vitamin E.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A method~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the **[[**crude**]]** palm oil is converted directly into palm oil methyl esters.